



Photo by SSgt. Steve Ball

Fifth-grade students eat their lunch in the new cafeteria.

Cafeteria open for base campus

By SSgt. Steve Ball
Public affairs

Cafeteria workers began serving hot lunches to fourth- and fifth-grade base campus students Tuesday in their new cafeteria.

This marks the completion of the facility construction project that began last year.

"Now the students can eat nutritious hot lunches where there's enough space to socialize with their friends," said Marsha Shearer, Lakenheath elementary school principal and base campus administrator. "Since August, the students have been eating sack lunches at tables in a hallway waiting for this cafeteria to open."

It's the Army and Air Force Exchange Service that actually runs the cafeteria, provides the lunches and sets the prices. Lunches are \$1.95 and milk is 50 cents.

"We are subsidized by (U.S. Department of Agriculture), and they provide us guidelines about what to serve and how much the students get," said Dale Linebarger, AAFES general manager. "On top of food costs, we work in salaries of cafeteria workers and from that, set a price so that we break even. Most school cafeteria pro-

grams actually lose money for AAFES."

Menu items planned for the cafeteria include: ravioli, Philly-cheese-steak sandwiches, Swedish meatballs, chicken fajitas, chicken nuggets, hamburgers, beef-and-bean burritos, chicken sandwiches, chili dogs and more, according to Cherry Taylor, AAFES U.K. schools feeding manager.

"The students also get fruits, vegetables and milk with each meal," said Taylor. "Parents should receive menus through the school."

Students were given the opportunity to choose their lunch for their first day in the cafeteria and the overwhelming decision was pizza, according to Shearer. Also on the menu were salad, peaches, corn, peas and cake.

"I really liked the cake," said Omar Powell, a fifth-grade student. "But I'm sure they won't have it every day. They're only having it because today's our first day in (the cafeteria)."

"The lunch is really delicious," said Michael Wright, another fifth-grade student. "Except for the peas and salad. The salad would be better if they gave us dressing to put on it."

Saying "no" to the peas was a pretty popular decision, as most of the trays returned for washing still had a lot of green on them. One student, Shane Swanson, said he liked them, but the looks on his friends' faces at his table proved it was not the popular stand.

The facility is also the campus gymnasium.

"We haven't had a chance to use it (as a gymnasium) yet, but I already see that there're no hoops, so I guess we won't be playing basketball," said Andre Warfield, a fifth-grade student.

"There will be organized sports for the students in the gymnasium including floor hockey, basketball (with portable basketball hoops) and volleyball," said Shearer. "We are also working to get basketball hoops installed on the asphalt area near the tennis courts."

OHA surveys mailed to American military in U.K.

Within the last month, more than 4,000 overseas housing allowance surveys were mailed to military members residing off-base in the United Kingdom.

In these surveys, members were asked to report costs incurred in maintaining their off-base residences.

The importance of the surveys can't be stressed enough because they directly impact the utility/maintenance allowance, said Maj. Diane McDaniels, 48th Fighter Wing comptroller. All expenses are reportable.

"If you purchase bottled water or bottled gas for supplemental heating, report it," she said. "Even the costs of minor maintenance should be reported."

Surveys should be completed as rapidly and accurately as possible and returned in the enclosed envelope.



COLA, OHA to drop in end-of-month paychecks

Military members assigned to the United Kingdom will see a sharp decrease in their end-of-month February pay due to a significant drop in the cost of living allowance exchange rate.

The rate, which was \$1.77 = £1 Jan. 1, fell to \$1.72 Feb. 1. It fell again to \$1.61 Feb. 16. Rates are set by the Congressional Per Diem Committee. The change is based on a strong showing of the dollar against the pound.

In addition, members residing off-base will see a drop in their overseas housing allowance due to the change in exchange rates.

However, the OHA drop is not as severe because it was offset by an increase in the utility/maintenance allowance from £114 to £130 a month. The increase in the allowance was in response to the OHA surveys completed six months ago, according to Maj. Diane McDaniels, 48th Fighter Wing comptroller.

"If the utility/maintenance allowance had not been increased, members with dependents would have lost an additional \$33 monthly," she said.

As the largest portion in the rate

See COLA, page 7

Free, reduced-price lunches

Free and reduced-price lunches are available for students. For example: a family of three with a total monthly family income of \$1,618 or less qualifies for free lunches. If the same family has a total monthly income of \$2,302 or less, the student qualifies for reduced-price lunches. Parents who feel they may qualify for free or reduced-price lunches can call MSgt. James Hall in the liaison schools office at Ext. 5077.